(SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) The marketing effort made by the Ministry is an on going process and various steps have been taken by the Ministry of Tourism. This include improvement in the infrastructure through Centreally Sponsored projects/schemes in the various States of the country, increased marketing efforts in the tourist generating countries overseas, use of internet as means for dissemination of information, etc.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) While the request for Open Sky Policy has been received, it may be stated that the traffic rights with respect of Civil Aviation is governed by the principle of reciprocity and bilateral agreements which is an internationally accepted practice followed the world over.

Bhagwan Mahavira Janma Kalyanak Mahotsav

455. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how many meetings have been held of the working/Executive/Committee of 2600th Bhagwan Mahavira Janma Kalyanak Mahotsav since 6th April, 2001;

(b) how many proposals have been received for financial assistance out of Rs. 100/- crores to be spent on celebrations;

(c) the details of the Institutions and nature of Development Project of each of them in relation to (b);

(d) whether to keep only Rs. 1 crore for celebrations during the year and the proposal to divert Rs. 99/- crores for earthquake affected areas of Gujarat was considered by the Committee;

(e) if so, what is the outcome; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) A meeting of the National Committee for celebration of 2600 years of Tirthankara Mahavira's Janma Kalyanak was held under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister on 9th December, 2000. Various decisions taken in the meeting were further discussed in the meeting of the Implementation Committee held under the chairmanship of Minister of Tourism and Culture on 27th March, 2001.

(b) and (c) So far 25 proposals have been received from State Governments/NGOs/private individuals for grant of financial assistance for undertaking various activities/programmes such as preservation of Jain Manuscripts, rejuvenation of ancient Jain temples, adoption of particular villages under the Mahavir Gram Kalyan Yojana, holding of national/international seminars, development of some places connected to Bhagwan Mahavir as tourist spots, publication of important Jain literature, establishment of Academics/medical colleges/hostel, to promote research in Jain philosophy, etc.

(d) to (f) At present there is no such proposal under consideration.

Heritage status by UNESCO to art forms of India

456. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any art forms of India has been conferred the heritage status by UNESCO;

(b) whether there is any Governmental or Quasi-Government agency in our country to send proposals to the UNESCO in this regard; and

(c) if not, will Government consider desirability of identifying such an agency?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Recently, Kutiyattam, a form of Sanskrit theatre from Kerala, has been proclaimed by UNESCO as a 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'.